

April 10, 2007

Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson  
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**RE: Nomination of Samantha Murray to the RSG**

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

I am writing to nominate Samantha Murray as a member of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) for the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Ms. Murray and her organization, The Ocean Conservancy (TOC), have a shared and ongoing commitment to the restoration and protection of marine resources and to achieving these goals through collaboration and a foundation of sound science.

As a member of the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, I am well aware of the skills and characteristics necessary to effective participation in the MLPA stakeholder group process. I am confident that Ms. Murray is an excellent candidate and would contribute significantly to the North Central Coast RSG. Ms. Murray's background, experience, and commitment to working collaboratively with and on behalf of a variety of stakeholders to find science-based solutions to restore and support wild and healthy California coastal areas make her particularly well qualified for this position. In addition, as a full-time employee of The Ocean Conservancy, Ms. Murray will have the time and resources necessary to commit to the MLPA RSG process and the extensive constituency outreach activities that are necessary for this process to be successful in the long-term.

Ms. Murray is knowledgeable about both northern California's marine resources and a broad range of regional marine protection efforts including water quality, fisheries, and habitat protection. Because she has worked on marine issues in both California and Oregon, she also has an eye toward the broader state and regional perspective of a successful MLPA process. As the Assistant Conservation Director of the Audubon Society of Portland and steering committee member of Oregon Ocean, Ms. Murray collaborated with fishermen, scientists and agencies to address Oregon's declining groundfish populations. During this project, she worked constructively with fishermen to discuss the use of marine protected areas as a tool for replenishing declining fisheries and restoring entire ecosystems. In fact, Ms. Murray's endorsement by local fishing communities in Oregon was one of the specific reasons she was hired by TOC to follow the MLPA process.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Murray has broad experience and proven success in working collaboratively, integrating the interests of a diverse range of constituencies and providing advice on natural resource policy and planning. For example, as the Conservation Director of Golden Gate Audubon, Ms. Murray worked with energy stakeholders, including wind industry operators, conservation organizations, the California Department of Fish and Game,

and Alameda County to resolve conflicts arising out of wind energy production and avian mortality at Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. After 14 months of settlement negotiations, the product was an agreement that provided for continued production of renewable energy in a way that significantly reduced impacts on birds. Ms. Murray's leading role in these negotiations show that she has not only the ability to work with myriad interests, but also the ability to reach sound, science-based solutions, which minimize ecological damage while ensuring continued energy and economic productivity. Ms. Murray also sat on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee for the Western Snowy Plover. Working with state and local agencies, scientists, agricultural interests, fishermen and ranchers this committee crafted a plan to reduce impacts on a threatened species while enhancing recreation along Oregon's 362 miles of coastline.

Both Ms. Murray and The Ocean Conservancy intend to commit significant time and resources to constituency outreach to ensure the highest possible level of public awareness of and participation in the North Central Coast MLPA process. Over the past months, Ms. Murray has already engaged in considerable outreach regarding the North Central MLPA process by meeting with local fishermen, scientists, local elected officials, business leaders, kayakers, agencies and birders in the region.

If selected to serve on the RSG, Ms. Murray and TOC would commit to extensive outreach activities to ensure effective representation of a broad range of conservation and public interests. She envisions giving regular presentations on the MLPA to local government officials, businesses, universities, local and regional conservation organizations, kayak clubs and other stakeholders to solicit the input of the broadest possible range of interests. TOC would work with NGO colleagues to provide frequent web postings and email updates on the MLPA to interested parties and to develop MLPA fact sheets and other educational materials for tabling and outreach events throughout the North Central Coast region

Ms. Murray received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Wisconsin, where she conducted field studies on brook trout reproduction and stream habitat, and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School, where she was awarded a Certificate in Natural Resources and Environmental Law. Ms. Murray has been fishing, sailing and getting outdoors with her father since she was five years old; she is a diver, a hiker and an all-around outdoor enthusiast. Because of her combination of scientific, legal and personal skills, Ms. Murray is uniquely situated to bring a balanced and thoughtful perspective to the RSG, to convey ideas and concerns in an articulate and constructive way; and to respect the views and values of others.

For these reasons, I am nominating Samantha Murray to the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Sincerely,

*Kaitilin Gaffney*

Kaitilin Gaffney

*Former Member, Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group*